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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Proposals have been called for from the Sanitary Engineer."

SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP :—" Because this matter is urgent and important, the Panchayat Board, Badagara, has requested this Government to implement the scheme immediately. May I know whether the scheme will be implemented accordingly? "

Improvement of slums in the City under the Madras Slum Improvement (Acquisition of Land) Act, 1954.

* 483 *Q.*—SRI S. PAKKIRISAWMI PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the steps taken by the Government to improve the conditions in the slums of the City of Madras under the Madras Slum Improvement (Acquisition of Land) Act, 1954; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to help such of the slum-dwellers who sought the help of the Government for acquiring the house-sites which have been under their occupation for many years?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The Government have decided to draw up a programme of slum clearance and to acquire and improve slums under the provisions of the Madras Slums Improvement (Acquisition of Land) Act. The details for drawing up the programme called for from the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, are still awaited.

" (b) The Government can take necessary steps to help the slum dwellers only after the programme for slum clearance is finalized."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" May I know how many private slum-dwellers applied to the Government for acquisition of the land and why the Collector of Madras has not implemented the provisions of the Act? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Certain petitions have been received requesting the Government to acquire and improve slums occupied by the petitioners. But it is not desirable to undertake the slum clearance work piecemeal. The petitions have been forwarded to the Commissioner of the Corporation for consideration while submitting details for drawing up a programme."

SRI S. PAKKIRISAWMI PILLAI :—" May I know if there is any policy chalked out by the Government for taking up these slums for improvement and if not, whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to have the policy decision taken as early as possible in order to implement the slum improvement scheme? "

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Commissioner has been requested to submit, in consultation with the Collector of Madras, details for drawing up a programme of slum improvement."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" Will the Government constitute a committee to implement this Act in order to benefit the slum-dwellers? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not think a committee is necessary."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" When did the Government decide to improve the slums? When did they ask the Commissioner of the Corporation to submit a report? Why should there be such inordinate delay in the preparation of plans? After all, it does not require more than 15 days to know where slums exist, what programmes have got to be chalked out and how they have to be implemented.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" We shall ask the Commissioner to expedite the submission of the proposals."

10-40 a.m. SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Sir, in asking the Commissioner to prepare the scheme, have the Government indicated to the Commissioner the amount of money that is likely to be given by the Government for slum improvement so that any scheme so framed may be done in stages at least? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The improvement schemes may be taken up in instalments according to the amount of money available."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" The Hon. Minister said that the Commissioner of the Corporation has been asked to draw up the scheme. May I know, Sir, why Government themselves should not do it? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said the Commissioner can do it in consultation with the Collector and the Director of Harijan Welfare."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, in view of the frequency of such questions arising on the floor of this House, may I know why the Hon. the Minister for Health should not be banished to stay in the slum or asked to stay there for some time until there is an end of these questions on the floor of this House? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I invite the hon. Member to do that first, Sir." (Laughter)

Extension of B.C.G. vaccination to all districts.

* 497 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to extend the B.C.G. vaccination to mufassal places; and if so, to which district; and